

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-II

DATE: 8 May 2008 TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Beck Conference Room
Department of Health

ATTENDANCE:

Committee-II: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair), Gary Gaube, Denise Panichas, Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair), Reverend David Shire (Secretary)

Excused: Raymond C. Coia, Esq., Maria Gil, Sen. Catherine E. Graziano, RN, PhD, Robert Hamel, RN

Not Present: Rosemary Booth Gallogly, Wallace Gernt

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Loreen Angell, Michael K. Dexter, Robert Marshall, PhD, Joseph G. Miller, Esq.

Public: (Attached)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:37 PM. The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. Minutes of Project Review Committee-II meetings of 21 February 2008 and 17 April 2008 were accepted as submitted. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of five in favor and none opposed (5-0) that the availability of minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame as provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Gaube, Panichas, Quigley, Shire.

2. General Order of Business

The next item on the agenda was the application of **Clinica Esperanza/Hope Clinic** for initial licensure to establish an Organized Ambulatory Care Facility at 60 Valley Street in Providence to provide free health care services.

Dr. Annie De Groot, Volunteer Interim Medical Director for the applicant, reviewed the applicant's responses, dated 25 April 2008 and 1 May 2008, to follow-up questions posed by the Committee.

A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of five in favor and none opposed (5-0) to recommend that the application be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Gaube, Panichas, Quigley, Shire.

The next item on the agenda was the application of **Symbion Holdings Corporation** [majority owners Crestview Symbion Holdings, LLC and Northwestern Mutual Life] for a change in effective control of Symbion, Inc. and its subsidiary Bayside Endoscopy Center, LLC which operates a freestanding ambulatory surgical center facility in Providence and a freestanding ambulatory surgical center facility in East Greenwich.

Mr. Zubiago, legal counsel to the applicant summarized the application and its deliberation before the Committee. He reviewed the applicant's responses to follow-up questions (dated 7 March 2008, 11 April 2008, 5 May 2008, and 8 May 2008).

The applicant noted difficulties in determining eligibility for charity care. The Committee recommended that the applicant work with 501(c)(3) organizations to allow clients of such organizations to qualify for charity care services at the applicant's facilities without requiring the applicant and those referred individuals to document qualifications for charity care again. The applicant agreed that such an arrangement, whereby the 501(c)(3) organization pre-certifies referred patients as "charity-care eligible" would be beneficial. The Committee recommended that the condition of approval that the applicant provide at least 5% charity care cases at the East Greenwich facility be removed and that the applicant establish a formal outreach program and strategy at the Providence facility (in addition to such an existing policy at the East Greenwich facility) directed to reaching and providing notice to the uninsured, underinsured and referring providers (501(c)(3) organizations) in the applicant's service area. The Committee further recommended that the applicant establish formal referral agreements with the Rhode Island Free Clinic (or any such other free clinics that may be licensed in the future) and a community health center in the applicant's service area. The applicant agreed to these conditions.

A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of five in favor and none opposed (5-0) to recommend that the application be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Gaube, Panichas, Quigley, Shire.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Marshall, PhD